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Dear Parents,

Pinellas County Schools encourages volunteerism. The school district recognizes that volunteers promote family and community involvement and provide meaningful experiences for students. In that spirit, the district is providing this letter to further clarify information you may have received from your school regarding the background screening process for volunteers.

Pinellas County School Board policies require that all volunteers undergo a criminal background screening. Board policies also require that certain volunteers, those who have unsupervised contact with students, undergo Level II screening, an additional level of screening that involves fingerprinting. This requirement pertains to all volunteers who have unsupervised contact with students, including chaperones, drivers and volunteer coaches.

These are not new policies. They have been in effect since 2009. But a more stringent monitoring process has revealed the need to make sure they're followed consistently throughout the district.

In an effort to clarify the policies, we are providing additional information about the screening process and a list of frequently asked questions and answers.

We appreciate your understanding and the passion you share with us to keep students safe.

Sincerely,

Dr. Valerie Brimm,
Director, Office of Strategic Partnerships